

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-17, and 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 7, and 8 have previously been canceled without prejudice. Claims 18 and 19 are herein canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application directed to these claims. Subject matter from claims 18 and 19 has been incorporated into claim 17. Claims 26 and 27 are amended to correct the dependency thereof in view of the cancellation of claim 19. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of these amendments.

The Examiner stated in the telephone interview of February 5, 2001, that claims 1-4, 6, 9-16, and 21-25 are in condition for allowance in view of the Amendment filed on November 15, 2000. The Examiner further stated that claims 17-20 and 26-27 would be allowable if amended to have a similar scope as the allowable claims. The amendments presented herein are intended to result in independent claim 17 and its dependent claims having similar scope as the allowable claims.

Should the Examiner deem it advisable to conduct a telephone interview for any reason, the undersigned attorney would be most agreeable to receiving a telephone call to expedite the prosecution of the application.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 9-17, and 20-27 and

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passage of this application to issue.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

17. (Amended) A method for inhibiting blood coagulation on a medical device that comes in contact with blood comprising coating said medical device with a pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymeric matrix intimately admixed with a composition of matter comprising heparin covalently bonded to a hydrophobic agent, wherein the hydrophobic agent is a member selected from the group consisting of sterols, deoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, lithocholic acid, ursocholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, isoursodeoxycholic acid, lagodeoxycholic acid, glycocholic acid, taurocholic acid, glycodeoxycholic acid, glycochenodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, hyocholic acid, hyodeoxycholic acid, and mixtures thereof.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 17 [19] wherein the hydrophobic agent is a sterol selected from the group consisting of cholestanol, coprostanol, cholesterol, epicholesterol, ergosterol, ergocalciferol, and mixtures thereof.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 17 [19] wherein the hydrophobic agent is deoxycholic acid.